

# **Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee**

January 3, 2018

## **Minutes**

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a silent moment of reflection.

**Committee Members present:** Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne, Ilse York, Neil Broome, and Michael Vento

**Guests Welcomed:** Zach Thompson (Matthews Resident), Rad Pate (ToM Liaison) and Paul Bill (Special Guest Veterans Bridge Homes)

**Special Guest Speaker:** Paul Bill spoke about Veterans Bridge Homes and the help they give to Veterans not only in Matthews area but areas all over such as Greensboro etc. He heard about MVAC through Neil Broome who came in to Veterans Bridge Homes. "Veterans Bridge Home helps Charlotte veterans successfully transition home after military service by identifying their education, employment and healthcare needs and connecting them to available community, state and federal agencies." (From Veterans Bridge Home website)

**Minutes of December 6, 2017:** Minutes were approved as transmitted

**ToM Hood Room:** Fisk took members and guests to the Hood room to see the new flags we purchased.

**Old Business:**

**1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness:** Amanda Kohout spoke. Did not meet in December. Amanda did update calendar of events. Michael Vento will now take over handling and updating that calendar. They will have more news for us at February meeting on plans for the Veterans Breakfast to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in June. Fisk and Tom have volunteered to head the Vietnam and Korean MVAC event.

**2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration:** Chairperson Larry Stawicki spoke. Did not meet in December. Will meet this month and will have a handle on budget requests by next meeting.

**3: Subcommittee 3. Communications:** Chairperson Dessi Dufresne spoke. The committee did meet in December. They have ordered and received the table runners. Dessi showed them to the committee and they are being stored in Rad's office for when we need them. (They look great)

They are also working with the Rotary to help pay for the Purple Heart signs for Matthews. They will plan to put together an event to highlight when we put up signs once we have them. Have to pick the spot that would best showcase.

Dessi and Ilse have a meeting set with Corey at Matthews Parks and Rec to discuss Baucom Park. Baucom Park is up for renovations and Ilse and Dessi have a plan to make it into "Little Heroes" playground. There is a gazebo in the center of the playground that would be a prime place to display signs of Armed forces and Mvac sign. They hope to get Vets involved when building the park and see if can get the Carolina Panthers involved to encourage media attention.

They will have another meeting of their subcommittee on January 16<sup>th</sup>

**4: Subcommittee 4: Executive:** Fisk Outwater spoke. Asked the committees to check their Plan of Action and make sure all is correct. The executive committee will be asking Town commissioners and the Town Mayor to attend meetings specifically not just a general invite to them. He also reminded everyone when purchasing anything for MVAC to be sure and ask if they have a military discount

available. Tom Cannon passed out a copy of our updated approved By-Laws. He mentioned there have been no changes to the SOP at this time.

Fisk has sent an email to Leanne Moore with the Matthews Alive Festival to set a time to meet about what role we can play in the festival. Dessi reminded we have a backup plan for a location for a table for us at festival if the town does not work with us in the cost.

Fisk has received approval for us to use the town hall for the Korean/Vietnam War Exhibit. We will hire police officers to help to watch items. We need to have good signage for the event. Plan to advertise. Rad said town had tables and chairs for us to use. The event will take place May 26<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>. With hours of 10 -4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday and 10-1 on Monday. In the Atrium and Hood room. They are going to ask people to bring items but they will need to stay with their items or agree to not hold MVAC responsible for them. This will not be restricted to only Matthews residents to bring items.

ToM /MVAC Veterans Breakfast will be discussed more next month. Scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> 8 am to 11 am

### **New Business:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack reported we had \$2194 last month but with the expenses of the tablecloths, runners, and flags we are at break-even mark. He said we can request more money. Each subcommittee is to bring their budget requests to next meeting so he can make a combined request. It was brought up that our committee can do fundraisers if we so chose.

**Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments:** Fisk wanted to remind everyone we have 2 scrapbooks in Rad's office. Everyone can add to as see fit.

Reminder of schedule for Moment of reflection = SC #1- July, August, Sept  
SC #2 – Oct, Nov, Dec SC #3 –Jan, Feb, March Exec. Com. – April,May,June

They are also responsible for Speakers: One/quarter same as above

Fisk mentioned he wanted to attend the Vet Resource Expo Joe Bochicchio mentioned last meeting to observe and see if it's something we would want to participate in another time.

He also reminded everyone we must do all business through the Town Webmail system

**Comments-Town Council Liaison:** Rad is doing new name tags and will get new ID tags at some point. He also mentioned that Rotary clubs are who sponsor Honor flights. One coming up in May so if wanting to get an application need to do so ASAP.

**Open Comments:** Fred Baylor mentioned a previous member wanted to come back on the committee. Fisk and Tom asked him to have them just resubmit an application. We have a spot open.

Charleen spoke with Woodmen of the World and they have agreed to donate an American Flag (3 x5) to our committee so that we have one that belongs to us for our use.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary

